

Gladstone Summer Scholars (GSS) internship program

Grant Award Details

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Grant Type: Creativity Awards

Grant Number: TC1-06252

Project Objective: as with all other funded programs under this RFA, this Program filled in their requested intern slots in the first reporting period.

Investigator:

Name:	Shannon Noonan
Institution:	Gladstone Institutes, J. David
Type:	PI

Award Value: \$35,044

Status: Closed

Grant Application Details

Application Title: [REDACTED] Summer Scholars internship program

Public Abstract: Public school classrooms are often strapped for resources, with ill-fitted lab equipment and a lackluster science curriculum, and teachers often struggle to provide interactive science opportunities for their students. Our scientists believe a highly skilled workforce benefits the state of California and that underprivileged students deserve to be part of the exciting field of stem cell research. So, in 2008 we created a summer internship experience for public high school students in our laboratories in an effort to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue undergraduate and graduate science degrees and to expand the diversity of biomedical researchers.

Each summer, six rising high school seniors are selected to work with a mentor in our labs spending 75% of their time conducting biomedical research and 25% of their time in supplementary educational activities. Their work culminates in a final poster session in which students describe their work, hypothesis and findings to our scientific community.

CIRM funding will allow us to ensure that two of our six interns specialize specifically in stem cell biology. Our interns will be able to learn methods for enhancing cell-fate commitment and analyses to determine genetic variation on cellular maturation and survival. Our institution has a robust stem cell biology research program, and our scientists are enthusiastic about sharing their passion for this science with our high school interns.

Statement of Benefit to California:

We believe that it is important for the state of California to invest in training and employing its local residents. Many scientific institutions and biotech companies recruit foreign scientists to fill positions in their laboratories. Our summer internship program for local public school students aims to tackle this discrepancy by training the next generation of biomedical researchers. Each summer, rising seniors in local public high schools are placed into 8-week internships in our laboratories. Our interns are exposed to the lab environment, trained in basic lab techniques, and are better prepared to pursue an array of opportunities within the biotech field. While the PhD path to science is definitely laid out for our interns, they are also introduced to the many high paying jobs in biomedical research that do not require a doctorate degree; such as lab aides, lab managers, and research technologists. The ultimate goal of our high school summer internship program is to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue undergraduate and graduate science degrees, thereby expanding the pool of diverse biomedical researchers.

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